

PRESIDENT'S POST

Preparations for the ACES annual conference are in full swing. It will be held March 24-28, 2003. The conference is our society's main event and its continued success is everyone's business. We look forward to the support of everyone who can help make the 2003 conference in Monterey, CA a great event. The ACES annual conference is a highly influential outlet for promoting awareness of recent technical contributions to the advancement of computational electromagnetics. Attendance of ACES members as well as nonmembers from throughout the world is encouraged and welcomed. The Board of Directors invites every ACES member to participate and encourage their colleagues to submit and present papers at the annual conference and/or organize a session, tutorial or participate in the vendor exhibit.

This year's conference will feature few changes from previous years. These changes are meant to enhance interaction among research groups around the world and increase industrial, academic and government agency participation. The conference will feature plenary and panel sessions, where invited speakers deliver original essay-like reviews of hot topics of interest to the computational electromagnetics community. It will also feature oral-invited sessions, poster sessions, a student paper competition, short courses (full-day and half-day), and vendor exhibits, which will feature several companies exhibiting their products. A cash prize will be awarded to the authors of the best non-student paper presented (poster or oral) at the conference and the judging will be performed a special ACES prize-paper committee. The conference will also include several social events including the annual awards banquet. The welcome reception will be organized in the evening of Sunday March 23, 2003 where we can all gather and kick off the conference.

Another new feature of the 2003 conference is that all authors of accepted papers will have the option to submit an extended version of their paper or papers for review and publication in special issues of the ACES Journal.

Awards represent an important activity of our society. Several awards will be given to several of our colleagues at the conference's awards banquet. Please submit your nominations to the society's awards chair, Pat Foster for the various awards. These awards include; valued service award, exemplary service award, founders award, mainstay award and outstanding paper award. More information about the society's awards program can be found on the ACES website. We are also looking for several ACES members to serve on committees to increase the leadership pool and help the society serve its members. If you are interested, let me know by phone, fax or e-mail.

In an effort to increase membership service, conference proceedings and journal archives are available on CD for ACES members and nonmembers. The ACES website includes information on how to obtain your copies of these archives. Increasing membership and services as well as enhancing the attendance at the conference are important goals to maintaining the viability of our society. As president, I will continue to promote ACES on all fronts. The BoD invites all members to participate in achieving these goals.

O. A. Mohammed
President, ACES